Crisis in Coal India Limited due to transfer of officers

1737. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a crisis has developed in the Coal India Limited due to the policy decision to transfer the CIL officers, en-masse to various subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited;

(b) whether the human resource development has been adversely affected by this process;

(c) whether large number of CIL officers have sought protection of the court of law; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Coal India Officers Association Calcutta have filed a writ petition in the Calcutta High Court. The same was disposed off by the Court by making the following order:

'The respondent Nos. 3 to 18 (Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries) are directed not to make any order of transfer that may be inconsistent with the existing transfer policy as framed by the Board of Directors of Respondent No. 3, the Coal India Ltd., the latest of such policy being one which was taken by the Board of Directors in its 137th meeting held on 16.4.94. The Board of Directors will, however, be at liberty as it always has to consider any change of transfer policy and bring about such change as it may thing fit. It is needless to mention that this order will have prospective effect; redundant though it is made clear that the communication made by the Under Secretary to the Government of India to the Coal India Ltd. by letter dated 9.3.94 shall not be given effect to by making any transfer order on the basis of the same without amending transfer policy already framed by the Board of Directors of Coal India Limited".

Supply of non-coking coal for sponge iron sector

1738. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of non-coking coal for sponge iron sector has been quite expensive;

(b) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry to supply good quality coal for the use in the sponge iron industry to save precious foreign exchange; and

(c) the quantity of non-coking coal that has been imported in each of the last three years and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: (a) and (b) According to information available with Minister of Steel and Coal Controller, the sponge iron sector has not been importing non-coking coal. The quality of coal supplies to sponge iron units are regularly being monitored by Coal Controller and action taken for ensuring despaches as per declared grades. The private entrepreneurs are also being encouraged to set up washeries to ensure consistent quality of coal feed.

(c) As per the information provided by Directorate General of Foreign Trade, the quantities and value of non-coking coal including coke/semi coke etc. imported during last three years were as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Quanitity (in million tonnes)	Value
1991-92 . . .	0.60	138.02
1992-93 . . .	0.42	99.14
1993-94 . . .	0.57	103.01